

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
SSO-00 INRE-00 ACDA-07 SSM-03 /069 W
-----024553 071529Z /50

O R 071211Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8071
INFO AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE
USLO RIYADH IMMEDIATE
USDEL TAIF IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE
USINFO WASHDC IMMEDIATE
NSC WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USUN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 CAIRO 13108

TAIF FOR SECRETARY'S PARTY

WHITE HOUSE FOR MR POWELL

USIA FOR IOP/M

FROM DCM MATTHEWS (AMBASSADOR IN ALEXANDRIA)

SUMMARY: UNUSUALLY HEAVY COVERAGE AUGUST 7 STRESSES
THAT WORKING GROUP NO SUBSTITUTE FOR GENEVA AND THAT
ARAB POSITIONS FULLY IN HARMONY. TOTAL ISRAELI
WITHDRAWAL, PALESTINIAN (PLO) PARTICIPATION IN
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NEGOTIATIONS AND ESTABLISHMENT OF PALESTINIAN STATE
AS BASES FOR PEACE ARE FEATURE OF MOST REPORTS,
BUT STORY ON SADAT MEETING WITH EGYPTIAN POLITICAL
COMMAND REAFFIRMS PEACE WITH SECURE BORDERS FOR ALL
STATES IN REGION WOULD FOLLOW ACCEPTANCE THESE
PRINCIPLES. REPORT OF AMMAN PORTION OF VANCE TOUR,
INCLUDING PRESS CONFERENCE, IS UPBEAT. PRESS EXPECTS

SECOND SWING THROUGH ALEXANDRIA, DAMASCUS AND AMMAN;
CLAIMS GROMYKO WILL VISIT IN SEPTEMBER. FLAVOR OF
TREATMENT GENERALL DEFENSIVE BUT DESIGNED SUSTAIN
APPEARANCE THAT MOMENTUM TOWARD PEACE IS CONTINUING.
END SUMMARY

1. COVERAGE: PEACE ISSUE DOMINATES FRONT PAGES
AUGUST 7. BANNER HEADLINES STRESS WORKING GROUP NOT
SUBSTITUTE FOR GENEVA AND CONDITIONS FOR PEACE ARE
AS DEFINED BY SADAT -- TOTAL ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL,
PALESTINIAN RIGHTS AND ESTABLISHMENT OF PALESTINIAN
STATE. AL AHRAH HEADLINE NOTES SECRETARY DEPARTED
FOR TAIF AND "EXPRESSED HOPES FOR RECONVENING OF
GENEVA NEXT FALL".

2. SADAT MEETS WITH POLITICAL COMMAND: MAIN STORY
WAS SADAT'S MEETING WITH VICE PRESIDENT MUBAREK,
PEOPLES ASSEMBLY SPEAKER MAREI, PRIMIN SALIM AND
FORMIN FAHMY , AS A VEHICLE FOR RESTATING EGYPT'S
PUBLIC POSITION. " INDISPENSABLE, CRUCIAL PRINCIPLES
CAN BE SUMMED UP AS TOTAL ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM
OCCUPIED TERRITORIES AND REALIZATION OF PALESTINIAN
RIGHTS, INCLUDING SELF DETERMINATION AND RIGHT
TO SET UP OWN STATE" (PRESS NOWHERE MENTIONS RIDER
ARAFAT INSISTED UPON: " RIGHT OF PALESTINIANS TO
RETURN"). IF ALL PARTIES ACCEPT THESE PRINCIPLES,
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EGYPT WOULD BE READY TO CONCLUDE PEACE AGREEMENT
"SIMULTANEOUSLY WITH ALL OTHER ARAB PARTIES CON-
CERNED". THIS WOULD INCLUDE " RIGHT OF ALL TO LIVE
IN PEACE WITHIN SECURE BORDERS EITHER WITH (MILITARY)
GUARANTEES ON THE BORDERS, OR WITH POLITICAL GUARANTEES
OR BY COMMITMENT OF ALL TO ABIDE BY UN CHARTER IN
CONDUCT OF FOREIGN RELATIONS". SADAT STRESSED WORKING
GROUP NOT A SUBSTITUTE FOR GENEVA. GROUP WOULD UNDER-
TAKE PREPARATORY CONTACTS TO ALLOW GENEVA TO FOCUS
DIRECTLY ON SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES.

3. SECRETARY'S MOVEMENTS: AKHBAR FEATURES SECRETARY'S
PRESS CONFERENCE IN AMMAN UNDER HEADLINE "VANCE WILL
MAKE ANOTHER TOUR OF ALEXANDRIA, DAMASCUS AND AMMAN".
HIGHLIGHTS SECRETARY'S STATEMENTS:
- " WORKING GROUP NOT SUBSTANTUTE FOR GENEVA. NOT
IMPORTANT WHETHER GROUP INFORMED OR NOT, IMPORTANT
THING IS TO CONTINUE EFFORTS PREPARE FOR GENEVA
CONFERENCE;"
- U.S. AGREES WITH ARABS THAT " SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES
SHOULD BE RESOLVED BEFORE GENEVA;"
- TALKS WITH KING HUSSEIN "CONSTRUCTIVE";

- "SOME MINOR DIFFERENCES " EXIST BETWEEN
U.S. AND ARAB VIEWS BUT EVALUATION OF TOUR MUST
AWAIT TALKS WITH ISRAELIS;
-- " THERE ARE SIGNS THAT ISRAEL WILLING NEGOTIATE
BORDERS" BUT SECRETARY DID NOT WISH TO ESTIMATE
TO WHAT EXTENT.
- ARAB STAND CLEAR. HOWEVER, SECRETARY RETURNING
TO AMMAN, DAMASCUS AND ALEXANDRIA FOR FURTHER
CONTACTS BEFORE RETURNING TO U.S. ;
- U.S. VIEWS ON PLO PARTICIPATION AT GENEVA ARE
"SELF-EVIDENT". NO TALKS WITH PLO AS LONG AS
IT REFUSES TO RECOGNIZE ISRAEL.

4. JORDAN OPTIMISTIC: ALL PAPERS ALSO CARRY STATE-
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MENT BY JORDANIAN SPOKESMAN WELCOMING SECRETARY'S
PROPOSAL TO HOLD CONTACTS WITH MIDDLE EAST FORUMS
DURING UNGA IN SEPTEMBER. SPOKESMAN SAID JORDANIANS
OPTIMISTIC FOLLOWING TALKS WITH SECRETARY. "PEACE
EFFORTS ADVANCING AND BASIS FOR PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT
CRYSTALIZING GRADUALLY. U.S. EFFORTS ARE SERIOUS
AND INTENSIVE". SPOKESMAN CONTINUED THAT JORDAN
SUPPORTS PLO PARTICIPATION IN NEGOTIATIONS AND IS
COMMITTED TO RABAT RESOLUTIONS.

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TAIF FOR SECRETARY'S PARTY

WHITE HOUSE FOR MR POWELL

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FROM DCM MATTHEWS (AMBASSADOR IN ALEXANDRIA)

5. SYRIA: STORIES TO EFFECT THAT "ASAD ASSERTS
SYRIA AND EGYPT IN FULL ACCORD" APPEAR IN ALL PAPERS.
STATEMENT DRAWN FROM ABC TV INTERVIEW RELEASED
AUGUST 6 CONVEY ASAD OBJECTIONS TO EXCLUSION OF
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PLO FROM GENEVA AND ISRAELI INTRASIGENCE. SYRIA
WILL GO TO GENEVA IF CONSIDERATIONS OF ISRAELI
WITHDRAWAL AND PALESTINIAN RIGHTS ARE SERVED.
PROSPECTS FOR RECONVENING GENEVA NEITHER GOOD NOR
BAD. "IT NOT NECESSARY THAT SECRETARY'S
TOUR BRING ABOUT SOLUTIONS FOR ALL DIFFICULTIES".
ARTICLE CLOSED BY NOTING ASAD DOUBTS THAT WORKING
GROUP PRODUCTIVE IDEA. ASAD HOPES THAT PEACE EFFORTS
WILL NOT COLLAPSE AND "STRESSED GOOD IMPRESSION OF
CARTER ADMINISTRATION".

6. PLO. PRESS REPORTS WITHOUT DETAIL THAT SADAT
RECEIVED MESSAGE FROM ARAFAT ON LATEST DEVELOPMENTS
IN REGION.

7. FAHMY MEETS WITH US. AND SOVIET REPS: ON PAGE
ONE AL AHAM COVERED FAHMY'S SEPARATE MEETINGS WITH
AMBASSADOR EILTS AND SOVIET CHARGE AKOPOV. ACCORDING
REPORT, AMBASSADOR EXPLAINED THAT
- WORKING GROUP "A MEANS AND NOT AN END". WHOSE
AIM IS TO CLOSE ARAB/ISRAELI GAP BEFORE GENEVA.
- SECRETARY MUST BE IN LONDON AUGUST 12 AND WILL
RETURN TO U.S. BEFORE VISITING PRC AUGUST 20.
- U.S. EAGER NOT TO LOSE TIME. PROPOSES CONSTANT

CONSULTATIONS WHICH CAN BE COMPLETED IN NEW YORK
AND WASHINGTON.

8. SOVIET CHARGE REPORTEDLY GAVE FAHMY SOVIET REPLY
TO EGYPTIAN PROTEST ON LIBYAN SITUATION AND CONVEYED
SUPPORT FOR ARAB CAUSE. GROMYKO VISIT TO EGYPT NOW
EXPECTED IN EARLY SEPTEMBER RATHER THAN AUGUST
BECAUSE OF "PREVIOUS APPOINTMENTS".

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9. EGYPT-SYRIA- SUDAN. "OCTOBER " MAGAZINE SPECULATES
THAT SUDAN LIKELY TO CALL FOR EMERGENCY MEETING OF
POLITICAL LEADERSHIP OF EGYPT, SYRIA AND SUDAN TO
DEAL WITH POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS OF CONCERN TO THEM
(UNSPECIFIED).

10. COMMENTARY: AL AHAM EDITORIAL STRESSED
PALESTINIANS ESSENTIAL TO MIDDLE EAST SOLUTION AND
THAT ARAFAT FULLY SUPPORTS EGYPTIAN " PRINCIPLES FOR
PEACE", WHICH AHAM DEFENDED AS CONSISTENT WITH
PREVIOUSLY DEVELOPED ARAB POLICY.

11. GUMHURRIYYA NOTES IMPORTANCE OF VANCE VISIT TO
SAUDI ARABIA IS BASED ON TRADITIONAL CLOSE RELATIONS
AND IMPORTANCE OF OIL FACTOR IN MIDDLE EAST EQUATION.
EDITORIAL EXPECTS VANCE WILL HEAR SAME WORDS IN TAIF
AS IN CAPITALS VISITED THUS FAR: ARAB DETERMINATION
FOR LIBERATION OF ALL OCCUPIED TERRITORIES AND
RESTORATION OF PALESTINIAN RIGHTS WILL NEVER WEAKEN.

12. COMMENT: TODAY'S COVERAGE IS BROADEST SINCE
SECRETARY LEFT ALEXANDRIA. THRUST OF REPORTING IS LESS
DESCRIPTIVE OF PEACE PROSPECTS THAN AFFIRMATIVE
OF FACT THAT ARAB POSITIONS ARE STILL IN HARMONY.
OBJECTIVE OF TREATMENT CLEARLY CONTINUES TO BE
ASSUAGING CONCERNS THAT EGYPT HAD UNDERTAKEN
UNILATERAL INITIATIVE -- WORKING GROUP --- DURING
SECRETARY'S VISIT. IT ATTEMPTS TO SET RECORD STRAIGHT
WITHOUT, HOWEVER, TRYING TO SELL IDEA OF WORKING GROUP
AS STEP FORWARD. DEFENSIVE FLAVOR OF TREATMENT
APPARENT. AT SAME TIME, HOWEVER, GOE SHEDDING
BEST POSSIBLE LIGHT ON SECRETARY'S MIDDLE EAST
MISSION AS EVIDENCE OF MOMENTUM TOWARDS PEACE.
EILTS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Sent Date: 07-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
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